

Chapter 9 : Closed Caption Service

All other PowerVu channels pass the closed caption information if the program provider has incorporated it in the program. Closed caption is a depiction of the audio portion of a television program as text displayed on a television screen with the aid of a decoder that may be internal or external to the television receiver. Closed, as opposed to open, captioning means that the captions do not normally appear as part of the broadcast television picture. The viewer must have the proper equipment and select the captioning mode. Closed-captioned programs are compatible with other programs in that the addition of the captioning signal does not interfere with the regular audio and video signal. Digital data to create captions are transmitted with the television program signal on Line 21, field 1 of the vertical blanking interval, which the PowerVu encoders passes with the video stream. This signal is then received on the PowerVu receiver and transmitted by the affiliates to their viewers.

Captioned TV enables viewer to read the dialogue and narration of the programs. The technique is used to provide access to the entertainment, educational, and informational benefits a television for viewers who are deaf or hearing impaired. The captions produced by the closed captioning system generally appear in the lower portion of the television screen, Closed captioning is added in real time to a live program or added later as part of post production or distribution. AFRTS does not add or delete closed captioning to programs.

The United States Congress passed the Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990. This act requires that all television receivers manufactured on or after July 1, 1993 with a picture screen of 13 inches or greater must be equipped to display closed-captioned television transmission. The display of the closed caption is a customer selectable feature on the receivers.